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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 09/981,238 | 10/17/2001 | Dale K. Bell | 60,130-1197/01MRA0362 | 5578 |

26096 7590 08/18/2006
CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.
400 WEST MAPLE ROAD
SUITE 350
BIRMINGHAM, MI 48009

EXAMINER

JOYCE, WILLIAM C

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
| 3682 | |

DATE MAILED: 08/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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| APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---|---------------------|

09/98,238

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| EXAMINER |
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| ART UNIT | PAPER |
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20060815

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Commissioner for Patents

The reply brief filed June 12, 2006 has been entered and considered. The application has been forwarded to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences for decision on the appeal.


WILLIAM C. JOYCE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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001/003

JUN 12 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appellant: Dale K. Bell
Serial No.: 09/981,238
Filed: October 17, 2001
Group Art Unit: 3682
Examiner: Julie Knecht Smith
Title: AXLE LUBRICANT ISOLATION

REPLY BRIEF

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Examiner's Answer mailed on April 12, 2006.

Claims 1 and 11:

On page 5 of the Examiner's Answer, the Examiner argues that "Applicant has misinterpreted the Final Rejection because the Glaze reference was not used to teach the claimed seal arrangement, but was used to teach the basic structure of a conventional differential assembly." However, the Examiner must look at the teachings of the references as a whole, otherwise the Examiner is merely picking and choosing elements to make the rejection. Here, the Examiner cannot simply ignore the particular structure or problems faced in Glaze, which is being used as the base reference.

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that the Reply Brief is being facsimile transmitted to the United States patent and Trademark Office, fax number (571) 273-8300 on June 12, 2006.


Lesley Upton